

## PREFACE

The Cornell University Library published the first volume of the *Islandica* series, a *Bibliography of the Icelandic Saga and Minor Tales*, compiled by Halldór Hermannsson, in 1908. The series, initially conceived as “an annual relating to Iceland and the Fiske Icelandic Collection,” has evolved during its century of existence. Over the years, it has included a number of scholarly monographs while maintaining its tradition of publishing learned bibliographies. Now, *Islandica* no longer appears solely in print. Commencing with volume LIII, a version of each series volume will be available online at <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/islandica/>.

It is deeply satisfying to present this volume of Joseph Harris’s papers in Old Norse studies, “*Speak Useful Words or Say Nothing*,” in *Islandica*’s centennial year. The scholarly writings of Dr. Harris, the Francis Lee Higginson Professor of English Literature and Professor of Folklore at Harvard University, have for more than a generation graced the pages of many of Europe’s and America’s most important journals dedicated to the study of literature and folklore. Joe Harris himself served as series editor for *Islandica* in the 1980s, seeing into publication two bibliographical studies in 1985.

Professor Susan Deskis of Northern Illinois University and Professor Thomas Hill of Cornell University proposed and edited this volume as a tribute to a great scholar and friend, knowing that many of his papers had been previously published in European journals to which libraries in North America have limited access. The wisdom

of the editors' selection from Joe Harris's many contributions reflects warmly their own sensitive scholarship.

The Cornell University Press has been graciously forthcoming in its collaboration on the publication process. This volume, and the new electronic home of the *Islandica* series, would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and wisdom of my library colleague, Teresa Ehling, Director of the Center for Innovative Publishing in the Cornell University Library. I am also pleased to acknowledge Elaine Engst, Director of the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, for her counsel regarding the future of our venerable series.

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Curator, the Fiske Icelandic Collection  
and Managing Editor, *Islandica*